

tana camara) bushes nearby. If they were to come across a python while it was in the process of swallowing its prey, the snake would be helpless and it would be easy prey for the dholes if they decided to attack it.

Dholes have been recorded to drive away tigers and leopards from their kills, but this is probably the first record of dholes trying to steal a kill from a python.

BNHS ELEPHANT PROJECT,
KARGUDI,
NILGIRIS - 643 211,
TAMIL NADU,
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7. ALBINO SLOTH BEAR

The tribals of village Madakote, Block Marwahi in Bilaspur District, located a female Sloth Bear with three white cubs in an Arhar (Pulse) field, adjacent to the forests of Achanakmar Sanctuary which is very rich in flora and fauna. Out of curiosity they chased the bear family and managed to capture the smallest of the three white cubs. The mother with two other cubs escaped. The tribals brought the captured cub to Police Station and from there to the Range Forest Officer, who kept it in the department's 'Indira Udyan' at Pendra. After the release of the news about this animal in local press, it has received much publicity and is a subject of great attraction.

The captured cub is a female and has been named 'KAMLI' by its keeper; its companions in the enclosure are a female Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Pea-fowl (*Pavo cristatus*), Blue rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*) and domestic ducks.

The cub was about 3-4 months old, attained three feet height when it stood erect and weighed about 30 kg. It is completely white,

and the eyes are pink.. It is difficult to distinguish the white 'V' mark on the chest, which is otherwise distinctly clear in normal coloured species. The snout and adjacent upper muzzle portions are light pinkish, replacing the dirty white coloration. The cub is shy of bright sunshine.

The mother of the cub is of the normal black coloration. The father could be the white coloured male which was reportedly seen sometimes in 1980 in the area. However, there are no evidence of its having been seen thereafter. The cub, a nature's freak, is therefore possibly an offspring of normal coloured parents. It appears to be a clear case of albinism and is possibly a rarity. The forests of Pendra have produced albinos in the past also, one of the earliest recorded instances being that of a tiger, shot in Pendra Zamindari (*JBNHS* XXIV No. 4, Page 819) whose skin (7' 6" long) was brought to Mr. E. A. D'Abreu of Central Museum, Nagpur in 1916.

Albinism in Sloth Bear, and in other species, of this particular forest tract, could therefore, be an interesting subject for investigation.

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